United Nations A/65/599

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 December 2010

Original: English

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda items 20, 65, 69 and 115

Sustainable development

Indigenous issues

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 30 November 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, on behalf of the Namibian Presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the text of the following documents adopted by the 123rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Geneva on 6 October 2010:

- Presidential Statement on the Millennium Development Goals (under agenda item 115) (see annex I)
- Emergency resolution on the international response to natural disasters (with a specific reference to the devastating floods in Pakistan) (under agenda items 20 and 69) (see annex II)
- Chiapas Declaration (under agenda item 65) (see annex III)

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annexes as documents of the General Assembly under agenda items 20, 65, 69 and 115.

(*Signed*) Jerobeam **Shaanika**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

10-67622 (E) 141210

Please recycle

Annex I to the letter dated 30 November 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement by the President of the Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals endorsed by the 123rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Geneva, October 2010

We parliamentarians, meeting at the 123rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva in October 2010, welcome the declaration entitled "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals", approved at the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals.

IPU recognizes the widely held view that progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals has been uneven. Despite significant achievements, considerable challenges lie ahead. IPU therefore welcomes the commitment by the United Nations and its Member States to give top priority to the Millennium Development Goals over the next five years so as to ensure their speedy implementation.

IPU has endorsed the need for greater accountability in international development cooperation. Governments must also be accountable for the Millennium Development Goals in their own countries. It is imperative that the Millennium Development Goal national reports are tabled and discussed in parliament, not only to guarantee accountability, but also to make the pursuit of the Goals an inclusive national exercise. Without good governance, both on the national and international levels, the Millennium Development Goals will not succeed. We urge all parliaments to do everything in their power to place the Millennium Development Goals high on their agenda, to identify modalities to further support Millennium Development Goal-related efforts and to ensure that their governments honour the promise of meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

IPU has worked energetically towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, in particular those relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women, child and maternal health, HIV/AIDS, and environmental sustainability. It has also undertaken valuable work in the area of parliamentary scrutiny of development aid. As a vital partner in the global effort to halve world poverty by 2015, we pledge to continue working to mobilize parliaments in these efforts as the deadline approaches.

Annex II to the letter dated 30 November 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Immediate action to support international relief efforts in response to natural disasters, in particular with regard to flood-stricken Pakistan

Resolution adopted unanimously by the 123rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Geneva, 6 October 2010

The 123rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the resolution on the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile adopted by the 122nd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly (Bangkok, 2010), which acknowledges that the growing frequency, intensity and impact of disasters pose a significant threat to people's lives and livelihoods, and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Also recalling the resolution on natural disasters adopted by the 112th IPU Assembly (Manila, 2005), which proposes that nations further strengthen their cooperation on disaster-prevention efforts,

Further recalling previous United Nations General Assembly resolutions on enhancing humanitarian aid in natural disasters, in particular resolution 64/294 of 19 August 2010, which urges the international community, in particular donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant international organizations, as well as the private sector and civil society, to extend full support and assistance to the Government of Pakistan in its efforts to mitigate the adverse impacts of the floods and to meet the medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction needs,

Noting the international framework for action provided by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, which were the main outcomes of the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction,

Also noting the decisions of the forty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly regarding the establishment of the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund as a mechanism for ensuring that funds go where they are most needed and that there is a rapid and coordinated response by the international community to natural disasters,

Underscoring the importance of international inter-parliamentary cooperation in natural disaster mitigation, given the growing role played by international and regional inter-parliamentary organizations in related social and humanitarian areas,

Deeply concerned about the suffering endured by the victims of natural disasters — loss of life, refugee flows, collective displacement of populations, and physical and financial destruction — and *considering* that this should serve to

promote international inter-parliamentary cooperation aimed at mitigating human suffering and accelerating rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Considering that over 2,000 lives were lost in the floods in Pakistan, 2 million people were displaced and the physical damage and resulting economic losses were huge; *also considering* that, according to figures of the Government of Pakistan, more than 20 million people have been left homeless, over 1.8 million houses damaged, 3,000 people injured, 40 bridges damaged, 2 million hectares of cultivated land fouled, 1.3 million hectares of standing crops destroyed, 1.2 million heads of livestock drowned, 3.5 million jobs lost, and 1,300 schools and 5,000 health facilities damaged,

Noting that the massive scale of destruction and loss of life caused by the unprecedented flooding, which was itself triggered by torrential rainfall in an otherwise arid region, reflects the adverse impact of climate change and the growing vulnerability of countries to such change,

Also noting the growing number and complexity of human catastrophes and natural disasters, the impact of which exceeds the disaster-response capacity of many affected countries, in particular their ability to provide food, medicine, shelter and health care to disaster victims,

Expressing its sincere sympathy and solidarity with the people and communities affected by disasters, particularly those in flood-stricken Pakistan, in the wake of the extensive damage and loss of life and property and the collective suffering that they have endured,

Praising the efforts made by the Government of Pakistan to reverse the negative impact of the recent disaster on people's daily lives,

1. *Urges* the international community, particularly donor countries, international financial institutions and relevant international organizations, the private sector and civil society to extend their full support and assistance to the Government of Pakistan and to mitigate the adverse impact of the floods by taking swift measures such as writing off and/or rescheduling Pakistan's debt, providing market access to revive Pakistan's economy and investing in medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction projects;

2. *Appeals* to international and regional parliamentary organizations, United Nations agencies and relevant regional and international organizations to redouble their efforts and develop programmes to heighten awareness of the damages caused by and potential risks of the flood in Pakistan and of the need for Pakistan to overcome this disaster;

3. *Underscores* the importance of a rapid response by the international community, in particular the United Nations, to meet the needs of people affected by natural hazards that may become disasters, especially the people of Pakistan, who have sustained heavy losses as a result of the recent devastating floods, and *urges* all potential stakeholders to extend humanitarian aid to all those affected by such a disaster;

4. *Requests* the relevant United Nations bodies to take into account the needs identified by the authorities of Pakistan and *calls upon* international financial institutions, in particular the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, and Governments to further contribute to the efforts

aimed at meeting the needs of the people in the flood-stricken areas of Pakistan, and *encourages* the Government of Pakistan to continue its own efforts to introduce the financial and economic reform required for successful reconstruction;

5. *Appeals* to the international community to respond rapidly and appropriately by contributing to the Pakistan Emergency Fund established by the United Nations and increasing the budget allocated to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, and *calls upon* donor countries to secure reliable and diverse donations for this Fund;

6. *Calls upon* parliaments to urge their Governments to prioritize compliance with international commitments such as the Kyoto Protocol and other agreements dealing with climate change;

7. *Also calls upon* Governments to provide adequate and accessible resources to United Nations agencies involved in funding and providing disaster assistance, and appeals to IPU to support United Nations efforts in this area by developing a parliamentary programme on disaster-risk reduction that encompasses mitigation, prevention and preparedness;

8. *Encourages* all Governments to further coordinate their international relief, reconstruction and recovery activities, among themselves and with humanitarian agencies, and to take concrete action to enhance people's understanding of the need for disaster-risk reduction through public awareness, education and training;

9. *Calls upon* parliaments to urge their Governments — through their legislative and oversight roles — the United Nations and its specialized agencies and all relevant regional and international organizations to develop disaster-risk-reduction strategies, facilitate the exchange of relevant technology, establish early warning systems, and develop rapid response mechanisms, in particular under the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative launched by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

10. *Appeals* to the United Nations to hold an international conference on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-affected areas in Pakistan, on the understanding that one day of the proceedings will be devoted to an IPU-sponsored parliamentary meeting, and *calls upon* the United Nations Secretary-General to take the necessary action to that end;

11. *Issues* an urgent call for all nations, acting within the framework of a strategy to manage unforeseen events, and in view of the need to ensure global security, to establish a global fund able to tackle unanticipated disasters and phenomena immediately, and *urges* IPU to establish a committee to follow this important issue and to promote and monitor the creation of such a fund;

12. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to report on implementation of this resolution at the 124th IPU Assembly.

Annex III to the letter dated 30 November 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Declaration adopted by consensus by the participants in the International parliamentary conference on "Parliaments, minorities and indigenous peoples: Effective participation in politics"

Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico, 3 November 2010

We are calling for genuine change. We cannot accept that minorities and indigenous peoples are the most vulnerable members of our societies and that they remain excluded from decision-making that affects their lives and the future of our countries.

We affirm that minorities and indigenous peoples have the inalienable right to full and equal membership of our nations. This right has to be translated into public policies that are sensitive to their situation, needs, and aspirations and accompanied by sufficient resources. This requires the effective participation of minorities and indigenous peoples at all levels of Government, and in particular in national and regional parliaments. All public policies should be submitted to minorities and indigenous peoples for prior consultation.

We further affirm the responsibility of political parties to promote the effective participation of minorities and indigenous peoples and address their concerns in their party programmes.

We urge every parliament, within the next two years, to:

1. Hold a special debate on the situation of minorities and indigenous peoples in their country; recognize the diversity in society; and adopt a plan of action to make the right to equal participation and non-discrimination a reality for minorities and indigenous peoples;

2. Adopt and implement laws to end discrimination and provide for the effective participation of minorities and indigenous peoples in decision-making, including in parliament, while taking care to secure the effective participation of minority and indigenous women. Where such laws already exist, evaluate their effectiveness and make adjustments where necessary;

3. Ensure that the legislative process is transparent and that parliamentary records are made available immediately so that minority/indigenous peoples can monitor the activity of their representatives and in so doing, hold them to account for their actions and omissions.

We call on the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to take the lead in collecting data on the representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliament, with due regard for privacy concerns and peoples' right to choose their own identity. We also call on IPU to monitor the implementation of this Declaration, to facilitate

networking among parliaments and to convene a follow-up meeting two years from now to discuss progress and set targets for future action.

As parliaments elaborate their plans of action, we recommend that, at a minimum, they:

1. Ensure that the right to free, prior and informed consent is observed in every step leading to the adoption of legislative and administrative measures affecting minorities and indigenous peoples; hold Government to account for the implementation of such measures;

2. Require of Government that all submissions to parliament of draft legislation and the national budget include an assessment of their impact on minorities and indigenous peoples;

3. Make regular use of plenary sessions in parliament and other parliamentary forums to discuss minority/indigenous matters in order to raise awareness and combat prejudice in society; organize awareness-raising sessions for all parliamentarians so as to increase their knowledge of minorities and indigenous peoples and the particular problems they face; ensure that minority and indigenous issues are mainstreamed into parliamentary work, in particular at the committee level;

4. Allocate sufficient resources to establishing dialogue between minority/indigenous peoples and public institutions and to parliamentary committees on minority and indigenous issues so as to allow them to carry out effective outreach activities such as public hearings with minority and indigenous peoples;

5. Increase parliaments' familiarity with work being done within the United Nations system so as to equip them to better hold Governments to account for their international commitments, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; more particularly, urge ratification of International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and the implementation of the United Nations declarations on the rights of minorities (1992) and indigenous peoples (2007); hold debates in parliament on the conclusions and recommendations made by the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and special mechanisms with regard to minority and indigenous peoples' rights.